

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07

PA-01 PRS-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /054 W

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O P 151150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8930

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: FIFTEENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 808

1. SUMMARY. COMMUNIST PRESSURE ON AND AROUND NEAK LUONG AND IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. FANK HAS INFLECTED HEAVY CASUALTIES IN BOTH PLACES. KC ACTIVITY AROUND THE COUNTRY HAS PICKED UP SLIGHTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVIE AROUND THE CITY OF NEAK LUONG AND ON THE WEST BANK OF THE LOWER MEKONG OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG. LARGE 120MM MORTARS ARE NOW BEING FIRED INTO NEAK LUONG; THESE MORTARS ARE USED ONLY INFREQUENTLY BY THE KC, WHEN THEY CAN GET CLOSE TO A TARGET TO WHICH THEY ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. A NAVAL LANDING BARGE, PART OFA CONVOY HEADED FOR NEAK LUONG, WAS SUNK EARLY JAN. 15 WITH 20 TONS OF AMMUNITION ABOARD. THE CONOVY, HOWEVER, CONTINUED ON TO ITS DESTINATION. THE CITY CONTINUES TO BE SUPPLIED BY RIVER CONVOY AND AIR. THE KC ARE PAYING A HEAVY PRICE AROUND NEAK LUONG,
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WITH AN ESTIMATED 170 KC KILLED OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS.

FANK CONTINUES TO HOLD AN ENCLAVE ON THE MEKONG WEST BANK OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG AT THE FERRY LANDING POINT, AND MAINTAINS A NAVAL INFANTRY PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER.

3. THE KC FOR THE SECOND NIGHT IN A ROW SUBJECTED 7TH DIVISION POSITIONS TO GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE. FRIENDLY LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 33 WOUNDED AND 4 KILLED. FANK, HOWEVER, COUNTERATTACKED THE MORNING OF JAN. 15, AND AS ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, INFLICTED SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES (REFTEL).

4. SIX ROCKETS IMPACTED IN AND AROUND PHNOM PENH JAN. 14 IN ADDITION TO THOSE DESCRIBED REFTEL. THERE WERE NO REPORTED CASUALTIES. THERE WAS ALSO A GRENADE INCIDENT ON THE EVENING OF JAN. 14, KILLING 3 AND WOUNDING FIVE.

5. FANK FORCES ON THE MEKONG EAST BANK OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH MADE NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AGAINST ENTRENCHED KC FORCES THERE.

6. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCES HAS PICKED UP OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING YET OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE. ROUTE 6 IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN SIEM REAP AND THE THAI BORDER IS REPORTED CUT, AND FANK TROOPS ARE BEING SENT TO REOPEN THE ROAD.

7. SHORTLY BEFORE NOON JAN. 15, A COMMERCIAL CAMBODIAN CONVAIR 440 FLYING TOO LOW IN ITS APPROACH TO POCHENTONG AIRBASE WAS STRUCK BY WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE ONE ROUND OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY OR MORTAR FIRE ABOUT THREE MILES FROM THE AIRFIELD. THE PLANE GOT BACK TO POCHENTONG SAFELY, BUT SEVEN PASSENGERS WERE SEVERELY WOUNDED.
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